

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ENGINEERS OVERSEAS HANDBOOK - 1976 EDITION - SYRIA

REF: STATE A-2643

FOLLOWING IS REQUESTED INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN 1976
ENGINEERS OVERSEAS HANDBOOK, KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REPAIR:

1.A. ENGINEERS MUST BE LICENSED BY SYRIAN ENGINEERS
SYNDICATE. 1.B. ABOUT 5600 ENGINEERS ARE LICENSED. 1C.
FOREIGN ENGINEERS MUST BE LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN SYRIA.
1D. FOREIGN ENGINEERS ARE LICENSED BY MINISTRY OF LABOR AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND BY THE SYRIAN ENGINEERS SYNDICATE.
1E. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS ARE AS GIVEN IN ITEM 2 OF 1970
REPORT, EXCEPT THAT ANNUAL FEE OF ENGINEERS SYNDICATE IS
300 SYRIAN POUNDS (ONE DOLLAR EQUALS 3.90 SYRIAN POUNDS).

2. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ALL SYRIAN ENGINEERS:
SYRIAN ENGINEERING SYNDICATE, ABU RUMMANEH, PAKISTAN STREET,
SAMIH FAKHOURI, PRESIDENT. SYNDICATE HAS ABOUT 6000
MEMBERS (INCLUDING ARCHITECTS).

3A. LOCAL REPRESENTATION NOT REQUIRED.

4A. NO REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL PARTICIPATION, BUT DEPENDS
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05069 021256Z

ON INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT.

5A. CONSORTIUM-TYPE BIDS NOT REQUIRED; DEPENDS ON PROJECT.

5B. BOTH PRICE BIDDING AND NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS ARE EMPLOYED IN SYRIA. 5C. PREQUALIFICATION IS USUAL RULE. 5D. CONTRACTS ALMOST ALWAYS CALL FOR ARBITRATION IN SYRIAN COURTS, RATHER THAN BY INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY, BUT THIS IS NEGOTIABLE.

5E. BID BONDS, UP TO FIVE PERCENT OF CONTRACT, USUALLY REQUIRED BY BANK GUARANTEE THROUGH COMMERICAL BANK OF SYRIA.

6. NO LIMITING REGULATIONS OR PROVISIONS ON US FIRMS.

7. NO RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING CONVERTIBILITY OF CURRENCY OR REPATRIATION OF FEES; GUARANTEES TO FOREIGN FIRMS WRITTEN INTO CONTRACTS.

8A. AND B. US CONSULTANT FIRMS REQUIRED TO PAY ABOUT 17 PERCENT OF TOTAL CONTRACT IN SYRIAN CORPORATE TAXES. EXACT AMOUNT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION. 8C. DOMESTIC ENGINEERING FIRMS PAY 28-30 PERCENT IN CORPORATE TAXES. 8D. US CONSULTANT MAY ORGANIZE AS OVERSEAS BRANCH OF HIS FIRM. 8E. NOT NECESSARILY, AS HE WOULD HAVE TO PAY CORPORATE TAX RATE LEVIED UPON SYRIAN FIRM.

9A. US FIRMS' EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LOCAL TAXES, BUT SUCH EXEMPTION MUST BE SPELLED OUT IN CONTRACT.

9C. PERSONAL POSSESSIONS OF CONSULTANTS' EMPLOYEES ARE SUBJECT TO DUTY; EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS USED ON PROJECT, SO LONG AS UNUSED EQUIPMENT, ETC., IS TAKEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT THE END OF THE PROJECT, ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DUTY.

10. AUTHORITY TO TENDER FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ARE DIVIDED AMONG A LARGE NUMBER OF MINISTRIES AND PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES, BUT EXPECIALLY: MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE, PUBLIC WORKS AND HYDRAULIC RESOURCES, EUPHRATES DAM, COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDES ROADS), TOURISM, HOUSING AND PUBLIC SERVICES, INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT (INCLUDES UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 05069 021256Z

AVIATION, PORTS, AND RAILWAYS), AND PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES. GOVERNMENT PRACTICE IS NOW TO GIVE RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS TO PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES; THERE ARE SEVEN SUCH COMPANIES, GROUPED UNDER THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. THESE PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES CAN HANDLE ONLY A FRACTION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY OR PROJECTED IN SYRIA.

11A. ARABIC IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, WITH ENGLISH AND
FRENCH WIDELY USED IN COMMERCE. 11B. METRIC SYSTEM IS USED.

12. EMPLOYER PAYS ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF EMPLOYEES' SALARIES IN
SOCIAL COSTS, MOSTLY SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES, UNEMPLOYMENT,
AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

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